

Case 3511***Prionocerus bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868 (Insecta, Coleoptera, CLEROIDEA, PRIONOCERIDAE): proposed precedence over *P. pertii* Laporte de Castelnau, 1836**

Michael Geiser

Naturhistorisches Museum, Augustinergasse 2, CH-4001, Basel, Switzerland.
& *University of Basel, Department of Environmental Sciences, Section of Biogeography, St. Johannis-Vorstadt 10, CH-4056, Basel, Switzerland*
(e-mail: michael.geiser@stud.unibas.ch)

Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Prionocerus bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868 for a common species of soft-winged flower beetle (CLEROIDEA, PRIONOCERIDAE) by giving it precedence over the unused older name *P. pertii* Laporte de Castelnau, 1836 whenever these names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CLEROIDEA; PRIONOCERIDAE; *Prionocerus*; *P. bicolor*; Oriental region.

1. Laporte de Castelnau (1836, p. 37) described a new species of PRIONOCERIDAE (then under TELEPHORIDAE) from Java (Indonesia) as *Prionocerus pertii*. Although other parts of this publication have been cited subsequently, the description of *P. pertii* was completely forgotten by later workers on this family, and the name was never cited again in taxonomic papers, not even in the most comprehensive catalogues (Gemminger & Harold, 1869; Pic, 1926). The only reference listing *pertii* is the Index Animalium (Sherborn 1929, p. 4875) which, however, is a simple index of names and cannot be regarded as a taxonomic work, as it does not provide information on the validity of the included names.

2. Although the type material of *P. pertii* has not been traced and the original description does not conform to modern standards, it is sufficiently diagnostic to be assigned to *Prionocerus bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868 (p. 109), also described from Java. The type series of *P. bicolor* consists of the holotype ♀, which is deposited in the collections of the Natural History Museum in Vienna (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien). This subjective synonymy has recently been published by Geiser (2010, p. 22).

3. *P. bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868 is a common and widespread Oriental species which, under this name, is represented in many museum collections and has been cited repeatedly over the past 140 years (Gemminger & Harold 1869, p. 1721; Gerstaecker 1873, p. 158; Kirsch 1875, p. 38; Schaufuss 1887, p. 125; Gorham 1887, p. 77; 1895, p. 318; Bourgeois 1890, p. 188; Maxwell-Lefroy & Howlett 1909, p. 325; Pic, 1910, p. 53; 1923a, p. 44; 1923b, p. 72; 1926, p. 4; 1929, p. 2; Champion, 1919, p. 329; Miwa & Chujô, 1938, p. 23; Wittmer, 1938, p. 7; 1939, p. 130; 1941, p. 227; 1954, p. 28; Gressitt, 1939, p. 194; Crowson, 1964, p. 316; Mayor, 2007, p. 385; Geiser, 2007, p. 170). *P. bicolor* is the only name attributed to this species since 1868,

apart from the name *P. bicolor* var. *notaticollis* Pic, 1910 (p. 53), a junior synonym. Despite this, the name *P. bicolor* has not been used sufficiently often to allow its conservation under Article 23.9.2, but nomenclatural stability would be negatively affected by using *P. pertii* as valid name.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power, under Article 81.2.3, to give the specific name *bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868, as published in the binomen *Prionocerus bicolor*, precedence over the name *pertii* Laporte de Castelnau, 1836, as published in the binomen *Prionocerus pertii*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868, as published in the binomen *Prionocerus bicolor*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *pertii* Laporte de Castelnau, 1836, as published in the binomen *Prionocerus pertii*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *pertii* Laporte de Castelnau, 1836, as published in the binomen *Prionocerus pertii*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *bicolor* Redtenbacher, 1868, as published in the binomen *Prionocerus bicolor*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

References

- Bourgeois, J.** 1890. Collection d'insectes formée dans l'Indo-Chine par M. Pavie, consul de France au Cambodge. Coléoptères Cebriionidae, Rhipidoceridae, Dascillidae, Malacodermididae. *Nouvelles Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*, (3)2: 179–188.
- Champion, G.C.** 1919. The Malacoderm genera *Prionocerus* and *Idgia* and their sexual characters (Coleoptera). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (9)3: 325–372.
- Crowson, R.A.** 1964. A review of the classification of Cleroidea (Coleoptera), with descriptions of two new genera of Peltidae and of several new larval types. *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London*, 116(12): 275–327.
- Geiser, M.** 2007. Studies on Prionoceridae (Coleoptera, Cleroidea). I. A new species of *Prionocerus* Perty, 1831 from Sumatra. *Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey*, 29: 167–170.
- Geiser, M.** 2010. Studies on Prionoceridae (Coleoptera: Cleroidea). II. A revision of the genus *Prionocerus* Perty, 1831. *Zootaxa*, 2328: 1–48.
- Gemminger, M. & Harold, B.** 1869. *Catalogus Coleopterorum, hucusque descriptorum synonymicus et systematicus*, vol. 6. Pp. 1609–1800. Sumptu E.H. Gummi, Monachii.
- Gerstaecker, A.** 1873. *Baron Carl Claus von der Decken's Reisen in Ost-Afrika. Dritter Band: Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse. Zweite Abtheilung: Gliederthiere (Insekten, Arachniden, Myriopoden und Isopoden)*. 542, XVI pp. Leipzig & Heidelberg, C.F. Winter'sche Verlagshandlung.
- Gorham, H.S.** 1887. Fam. Malacodermidae. Pp. 60–77 in Ritsema, C., *Natuurlijke Historie. Zesde Afdeeling. Coleoptera*. In Snelleman, F. (Ed.), *Bijdragen tot de Kennis der Fauna von Midden-Sumatra*. Eerste Deel. 210 pp. Leyden.
- Gorham, H.S.** 1895. List of the Coleoptera in the Collection of H. E. Andrewes esq. from India and Burma, with description of new species and notes. Families: Malacodermata – Erotylidae – Endomychidae. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique*, 39: 293–330.
- Gressitt, J.L.** 1939. Some Prionoceridae from China, Hainan, Formosa and Cochin-China (Coleoptera). *Lingnan Scientific Journal, Canton*, 18(2): 187–196.
- Kirsch, T.** 1875. Neue Käfer aus Malacca. *Mitteilungen aus dem Königlichen Zoologischen Museum zu Dresden*, 1: 25–28.

- Laporte de Castelnau, F.L.N. Caumont de.** 1836. Études entomologiques ou descriptions d'insectes nouveaux et observations sur la synonymie. Pp. 5–60 in Silbermann, G. (Ed.), *Revue Entomologique*, 4, Strasbourg & Paris.
- Maxwell-Lefroy, H. & Howlett, F.M.** 1909. Indian insect life. A manual of the insects of the plains (tropical India). 786, XII pp. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta & Simla.
- Mayor, A.** 2007. Family Prionoceridae Lacordaire, 1857. Pp. 384–386 in Löbl, I. & Smetana, A. (Eds.), *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Volume 4. Elateroidea – Derodontoidea – Bostrichoidea – Lymexyloidea – Cleroidea – Cucujoidea*. 935 pp. Apollo Books, Stenstrup.
- Miwa, Y. & Chujô, M.** 1938. 29. Fam. Prionoceridae. Pp. 23–24 in *Catalogus Coleopterorum Japonicorum*, Pars 6. Noda-Syolo Publ., Taihoku, Formosa.
- Pic, M.** 1910. Coléoptères exotiques nouveaux ou peu connus (suite). *L'Échange, Revue Linnéenne*, 26(307): 53–54.
- Pic, M.** 1923a. Etude des Malacodermes de l'Indochine, recueillis par M. R. Vitalis de Salvaza. pp. 3–59 in Vitalis de Salvaza, R. (Ed.), *Faune Entomologique de l'Indochine Française. Opuscules de l'Institut Scientifique de l'Indochine, Saigon*, 1: 1–137.
- Pic, M.** 1923b. *Prionocerus* Perty et *Idgia* Cast. du Muséum National de Paris (Coléoptères, Malacodermes). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*, 29: 72–73.
- Pic, M.** 1926. Pars 87: Phloeophilidae, Rhadalidae, Prionoceridae. In Junk W. & Schenkling S. (Eds.), *Coleopterorum Catalogus*. 11 pp. W. Junk, Berlin.
- Pic, M.** 1929. Dr. E. Mjöberg's zoological collections from Sumatra. 10. Dascillidae et Malacodermata. *Arkiv för Zoologi*, 21A(13): 1–6.
- Redtenbacher, L.** 1868. *Reise der österreichischen Fregatte Novara um die Erde in den Jahren 1857, 1858, 1859 unter den Befehlen des Commodore B. von Wüllerstorff-Urbair. Zoologischer Theil, Zweiter Band, 1. Abtheilung, A. 1: Coleoptera*. 249 pp. Karl Gerold's Sohn, Wien.
- Schaufuss, L.W.** 1887. Beitrag zur Fauna der Niederländischen Besitzungen auf den Sunda-Inseln, II. *Horae Societas Entomologicae Rossicae*, 21: 102–147.
- Sherborn, C.D.** 1929. *Index Animalium, sive index nominum quae ab A. D. MDCCLVIII generibus et speciebus animalium imposita sunt*. London, British Museum. *Sectio Secunda*, 19: 4691–4930.
- Wittmer, W.** 1938. Prof. Dr. E. Handschin, Studienreise auf den Sundainseln und in Nordaustralien. 1930–32. 7. Lampyridae, Drilidae, Cantharidae, Malachiidae und Prionoceridae. (1. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der indo-malayischen Malacodermata). *Entomologische Berichten*, 219(10): 2–7.
- Wittmer, W.** 1939. Fauna Buruana. Coleoptera: Fam. Lampyridae, Cantharidae, Malachiidae, Prionoceridae (7. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der indo-malayischen Malacodermata). *Treubia*, 17(2): 127–130.
- Wittmer, W.** 1941. Malacodermata von den Philippinen aus der Sammlung des Zoologischen Museum in Amsterdam. 8. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der indo-malayischen Malacodermata. *The Philippine Journal of Science*, 74(3): 195–229.
- Wittmer, W.** 1954. Cantharidae, Malachiidae und Prionoceridae (Coleopt.) von Sumba und Flores (14. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der indo-malayischen Malacodermata). *Verhandlungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft Basel*, 65(1): 24–28.

Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in BZN 67: 2.

Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).